CHAPTER 20

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

DATE?

YOU... AND ME?
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS
Mémoire 20 Serment PROMISE (Part One)

I...
VANITAS.
HA HA!
DID YOU EAT SOMETHING FUNNY? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU PLAYING AT?

IT APPEARS THAT I'VE...
...BEGUN TO LIKE YOU!

HUH?
YOU HARASSED ME CONSTANTLY ...
...AND I REALLY SHOULD HAVE HATED IT, BUT...
...I NOTICED.
WAKING OR SLEEPING, ALL I THINK ABOUT IS YOU!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN WE FIRST MET, I WAS THE ONE WHO ATTACKED FIRST!
IF YOU'D KILLED ME, I WOULD HAVE HAD NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT, BUT YOU DIDN'T.

EVEN AS THE VAMPIRES AROUND YOU HEAPED HEARTLESS WORDS ON YOU, YOU SAVED THE CURSE-BEARERS!
THE SAME WAS TRUE AT THE BAL MASQUÉ. YOU HELPED ME RESCUE MASTER LUCA.

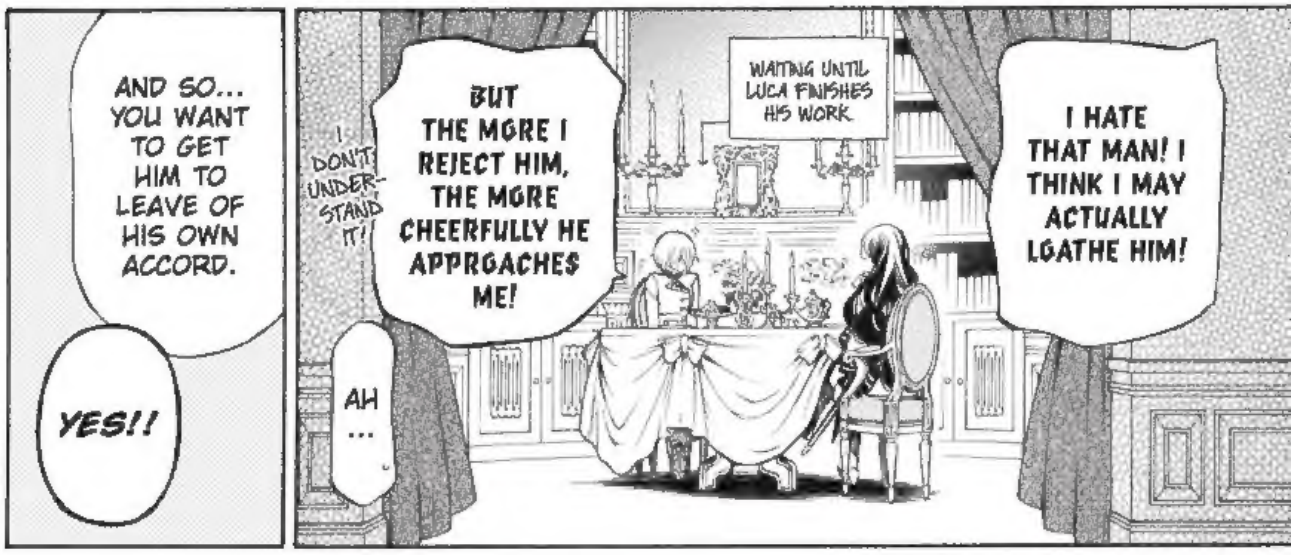
I WOULD LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!
YES!! IN OTHER WORDS, I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT YOU, THE HUMAN!

...WHETHER I CAN TRULY CALL THESE FEELINGS "LOVE"!!
I WANT YOU TO LET ME DETERMINE...

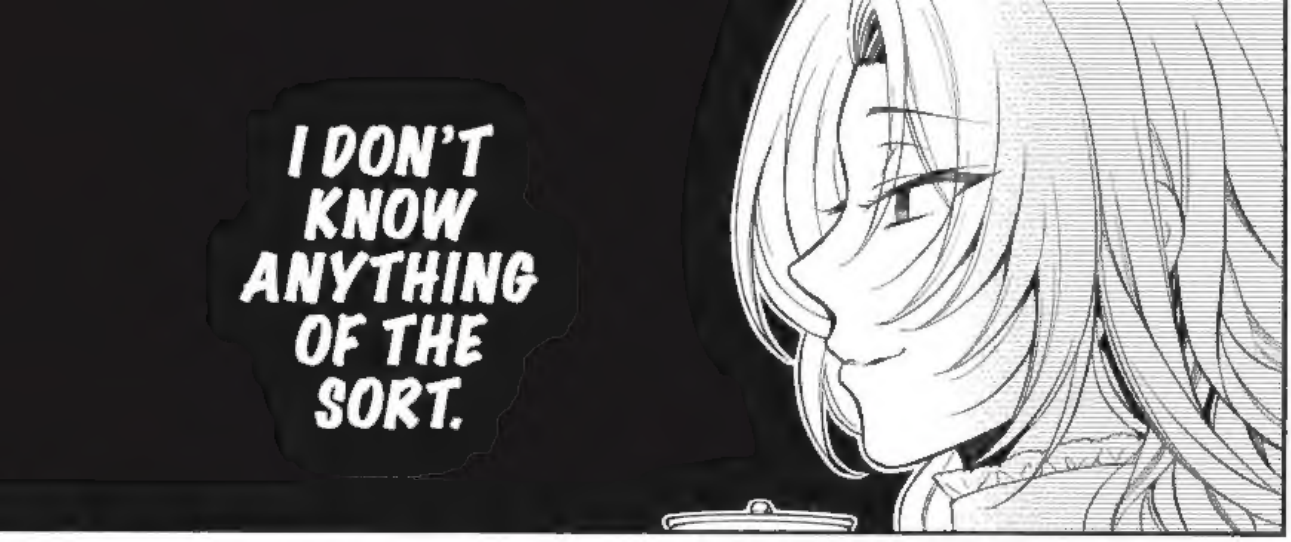
HUH ...?

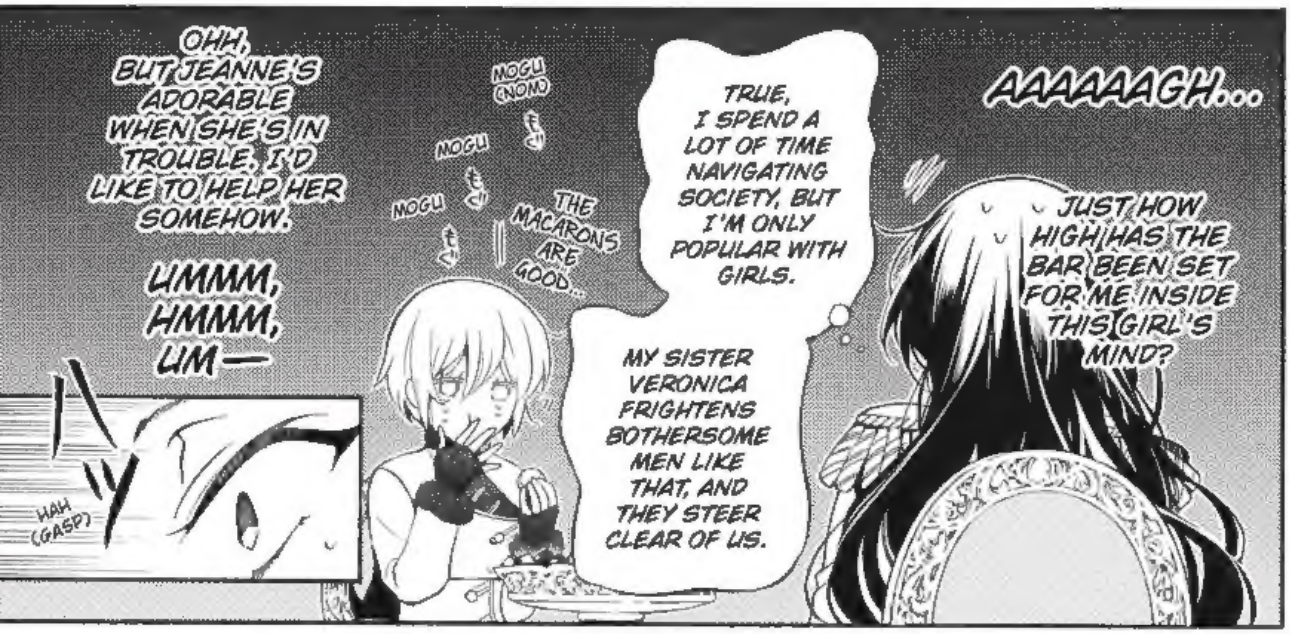
TH...
?
THAT...
BA (FWIP)
A REACTION BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS!
THIS REALLY WAS THE RIGHT METHOD!
THANK YOU, LADY DOMINIQUE!
HUH?
THAT'S IT!!

YES!
...YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE VANITAS DISLIKE YOU?


AND SO... YOU WANT TO GET HIM TO LEAVE OF HIS OWN ACCORD.
YES!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
BUT THE MORE I REJECT HIM, THE MORE CHEERFULLY HE APPROACHES ME!
AH...
WAITING UNTIL LUCA FINISHES HIS WORK.
I HATE THAT MAN! I THINK I MAY ACTUALLY LOATHE HIM!

PLEASE, ADVISE ME.
I CAN'T ABIDE LETTING THAT MAN TOY WITH ME ANY LONGER!
AS A DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE OF DE SADE, YOU ARE VERY SOCIALLY EXPERIENCED, LADY DOMINIQUE.
YOU MUST KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH MEN LIKE HIM WHEN YOU RUN ACROSS THEM!!

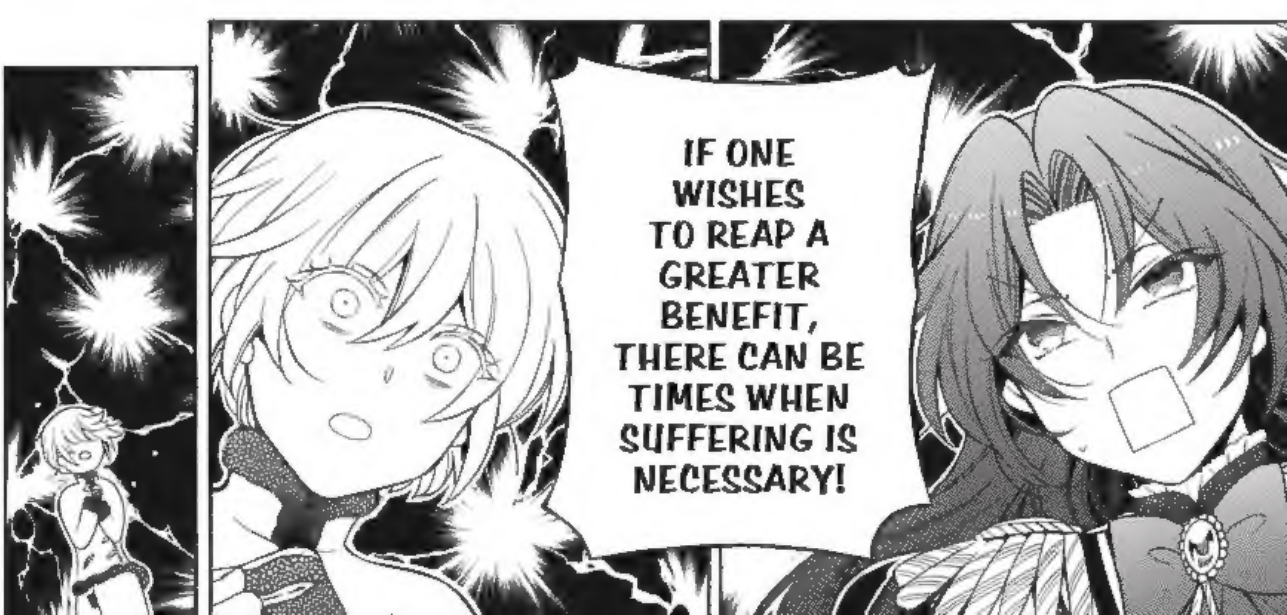

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF THE SORT.


AAAAAAGH...
JUST HOW HIGH HAS THE BAR BEEN SET FOR ME INSIDE THIS GIRL'S MIND?
TRUE, I SPEND A LOT OF TIME NAVIGATING SOCIETY, BUT I'M ONLY POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
MY SISTER VERONICA FRIGHTENS BOTHERSOME MEN LIKE THAT, AND THEY STEER CLEAR OF US.
MOGU (NOM)
MOGU
MOGU
THE MACARONS ARE GOOD...
OHH, BUT JEANNE'S ADORABLE WHEN SHE'S IN TROUBLE. I'D LIKE TO HELP HER SOMEHOW.
UMMM, HMMM, UM—
HAH (GASP)

TH—
THAT'S IT!
NOÉ TOLD ME SOMETHING!
!?
I HAVE...
APPARENTLY, VANITAS ONCE SAID...
..."I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE SORT OF PERSON WHO'D FALL FOR ME"!

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO PRETEND!
I'D RATHER KILL MYSELF THAN DO THAT!
IT'S THAT BAD!?
NO, BUT—! I COULD NEVER LIKE THAT MAN!
GATA (CLATTER)
WELL, NO...JUST PRETEND, OF COURSE!
IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU START TO LIKE VANITAS, HE MIGHT LOSE INTEREST IN YOU AND LEAVE.

!?
IT'S A CHINESE FABLE MY GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME, LONG AGO.
...
"CRAWLING HAN XIN"!!

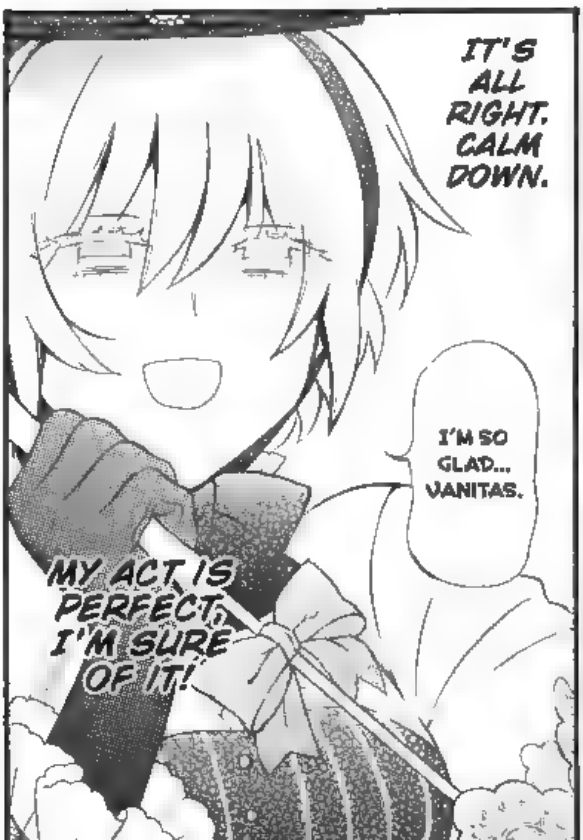

IF ONE WISHES TO REAP A GREATER BENEFIT, THERE CAN BE TIMES WHEN SUFFERING IS NECESSARY!

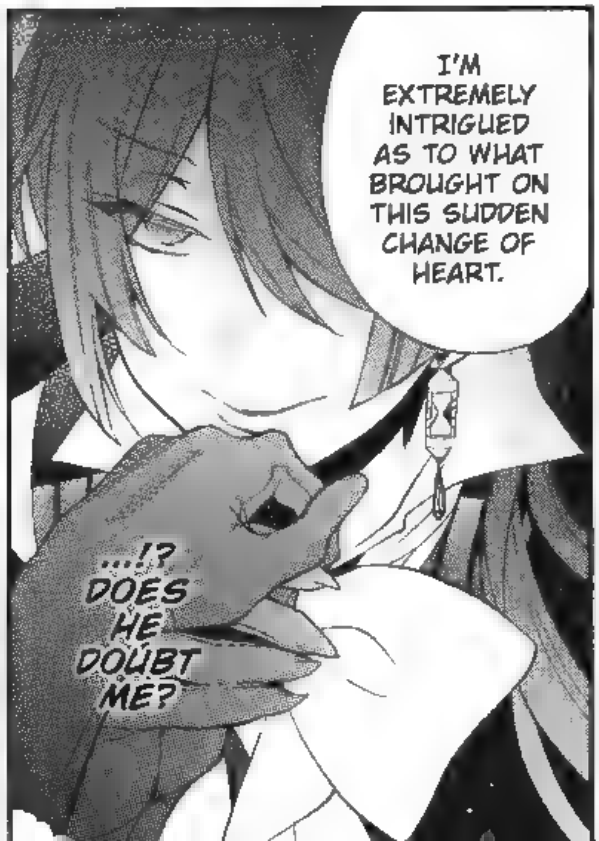
I'VE PUT SHAME BEHIND ME!!
GI (GLARE)
IT'S JUST AS LADY DOMINIQUE SAID!!
TRYING TO GET RESULTS WITHOUT THE RESOLVE TO ENDURE PAIN MYSELF...
WHAT A FOOL I WAS!
TODAY, I WILL LOVE YOU WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE.
IN ORDER TO GET YOU TO HATE ME!!

...
TO THAT END, I MUST NOT LET HIM REALIZE IT'S AN ACT.
IT WILL BE A HARD, PAINFUL BATTLE... BUT I CAN DO IT.
I EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE THAT LONG SPEECH WITHOUT FALTERING!
THANK GOODNESS I PRACTICED SO MUCH!!
PFFT!

HM...
THIS WAS ABRUPT, SO I WAS A BIT STARTLED, BUT...

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY REFUSE IT, COULD I?
...AFTER ALL, IT IS AN INVITATION FROM YOU.


IT'S ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN.
I'M SO GLAD... VANITAS.
MY ACT IS PERFECT, I'M SURE OF IT!


I'M EXTREMELY INTRIGUED AS TO WHAT BROUGHT ON THIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART.
...!? DOES HE DOUBT ME?

TODAY, IT'S YOUR TURN TO DANCE ON THE PALM OF MY HAND!!!!
PREPARE YOURSELF, VANITAS.
THAT ASIDE, JEANNE.
IT'S VERY NICE.
THAT DRESS.
LADY DOMINIQUE! CHOSE IT! ESPECIALLY FOR ME!!
KYAA (EEE)
LADY DOMINIQUE GAVE IT TO ME!
ISN'T IT!?
HUH? WHEN DID YOU TWO GET SO CLOSE?
KYAA
THE ACCESSORIES TOO!
HEH..
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, JEANNE.

...“YOU'RE LOVELY.”
I'M SAYING ...
HUH ...?

COME, JEANNE. LET'S GO.
DOKUN (BADMP)
DOKUN
DID I...
OH.
?
?

...MAYBE...
...MANAGE TO REACT AS IF I WAS IN LOVE...JUST NOW?
KATSU (CLACK)
TO BE CONTINUED...

The Case Study of Vanitas
Chapter 20

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